diagnosis appears a footnote, stating, "Specimens of this species were obtained near Port Natal in 1832," which, when taken in conjunction with the geographical ascription of "the country about and beyond Kurrichaine" in the description, implies that when describing the species Smith had seen material from both Natal and the western Transvaal. The 1836 description is, however, quite unequivocal and refers to the western Transvaal population and not that of Natal.

The above finding necessitates two changes of name to South African forms of the Golden-tailed Woodpecker as laid down in my revision of these in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.*, vol. 79, 5, 1959, pp. 70–78. Form (c) of my revision becomes the nominate race, with *Picus* (*Chrysoptilopicus*) *Smithii* Malherbe, 1845, an absolute synonym, and for form (a) a name is required. For the innominate austral subspecies I propose

Campethera abingoni constricta, nom. nov.

pro. C. a. abingoni (Smith) of Clancey, *loc. cit.*, *et auctorum*, *nec* Smith, 1836. *Type* from Gillitts, near Kloof, Natal, alt. *c.* 2000 ft. a.s.l. 25th April, 1953; collected by B. B. Rawdon. In the collection of the Durban Museum, Reg. No. 12987. Wing 111 mm.

The name chosen is descriptive of the narrowed and constricted nature of the lower throat and pectoral striae as compared with those of the nominotypical subspecies.

A further case of dwarfism in a pheasant

by J. S. Ash

Received 4th January, 1965

An example of a dwarf cock Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) from Oundle, Northamptonshire, has been described in this journal (Ash, 1961). Another rather similar bird was shot on about 19th December, 1964, on the Portway Estates, near Whitchurch, Hampshire, and sent to the Game Research Association for examination through the kindness of Mr. A. A. L. Wills.

Like the earlier bird there was no evidence of disease or injury, the testes were normal in appearance and there were good deposits of subcutaneous and visceral fat. There was no evidence of emaciation. Its standard measurements are compared with those given from *The Handbook of British Birds* and for the Oundle bird cited above:—

	Measurements in mm.		
	The Handbook	*Oundle bird*	*Whitchurch*
Wing	235–260	219	215 and 216
Tarsus	60– 78	50	45 and 45
Bill (from feathers)	28– 32	26	21.5
Tail (central)	420–520	419	356
Weight in gms.	1394	510.3	426.5

Based on wing moult the present bird was 17–18 weeks of age (1st primary = 98 mm.; longest (4th) primary = 162 mm.) which means it was a very late hatched bird in the third week of August. If the possibility is taken into account that late hatched birds develop more slowly the hatching date would almost certainly still have been some time in August.

Macroscopic examination of the thyroid and pituitary failed to indicate anything that might have contributed to the bird's condition. However, these glands have been preserved in 10 per cent saline formalin and are available to anyone who may wish to study them further.

Reference:
Ash, J. S. (1960). Dwarfism in a Pheasant. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.* 81: 95–96.

First-year Starling retaining juvenile flight feathers and comments on post-fledging moult

by R. E. Scott

Received 19th November, 1964

Unlike the majority of passerines, the Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, undergoes a complete post-fledging moult commencing in early June, when the grey-fawn plumage of the juvenile is replaced by the adult-like feathers of the first-winter bird. Occasional examples retain a small number of juvenile feathers about the head, particularly on the ear-coverts or immediately above the eye. On 30th October 1964, at Dungeness, Kent, during the routine trapping and ringing activities of the bird observatory, I handled a first-year starling that was in the final stages of moult. All the flight feathers were renewed except the outermost (minute) primary and the innermost secondary; both of which had completed two-thirds of their growth. The exceptional feature of this individual was that the first and third secondaries on the right wing and first on the left wing were retained juvenile feathers (secondary numbering ascendant).

A total of 819 first-year Starlings have been examined at various stages of their moult at Dungeness since 1961, a considerable number being captured on more than one occasion as the moult progressed. Not one of these birds showed any indication of flight feathers being retained, although a certain percentage (nearly 50% in 1964) were not half-way through the moult process when examined. A careful check during September and October 1964, of first-year Starlings that had completed their moult (a total of 209 individuals) revealed that apart from the bird described above, none had retained any juvenile flight feathers.

DISCUSSION

Williamson (1961) states that occasionally the juvenile bastard-wing and up to three secondaries may be retained and records one individual which had retained the innermost tertial, median coverts and secondaries number four to six. Clearly, however, the numbers given above show that the retention of juvenile flight-feathers (tertials, secondaries and primaries) is of unusual occurrence in the Starling. Witherby *et al.* (1940) record complete post fledging moult in only sixteen members of the Passeriformes —eight Alaudidae; *Aegithalos caudatus; Panurus biarmicus; Sturnus vulgaris; S. roseus; Emberiza calandra* and three Passerinae. At the present time there would appear to be no clear cut explanation why some species undergo a complete moult from the juvenile plumage, while in others it is only partial. The fact that *Emberiza calandra* is the only member of a large genus to replace all its feathers is particularly interesting. The amount of